



Huntingfield Parish Council

Minutes

Minutes of an Extraordinary General Meeting of Huntingfield Parish Council held on Thursday 30th January 2025 at 7 pm in the Hub

Councillors attending: Cllr David Blackmore (Chair), Cllr Sarah Kline, Cllr Edward Watson, Cllr Carla Kruger, Cllr Emma Ward. Also attending were 27 members of the public, a representative from Wilderness Reserve and the Parish Clerk, Carol Hume.

15.25 Apologies and approval of absences. Apologies from Cllr Julie Collett and District Cllr Julia Ewart were noted and accepted.

16.25 To receive Declaration of Interest. None

17.25 To consider requests for dispensations. None

18.25 Public participation session – To discuss the Parish Council response to an application made by Wilderness Reserve Suffolk for part retrospective application for the reconstruction of 4no. former agricultural buildings for use to a single guest house (Use Class 1), including associated leisure and recreation uses at Valley Farm, Laundry Lane, Huntingfield, Suffolk IP19 0PY (Variation to that approved within application DC/22/2572/FUL).

The chairman outlined the purpose of the meeting which is to hear resident's comments about the above application so that HPC can vote on the application at this meeting and then they will put together the consultee comment to be submitted on the ESC Planning Public Access portal by 10th February 2025. If the application is opposed, it will be "called in" and there will be a public hearing, most likely in two or three months' time. Individuals were encouraged to submit a personal response to the application as well as the response from HPC. After the conclusion of the meeting residents will be able to pick up a guide produced by Cllr Watson, on behalf of HPC, which explains how to comment on a planning application.

Overall comments from residents:

Several residents in turn addressed the meeting, raising points such as the fact that previous planning applications approved by HPC were for three properties at Valley Farm to provide a "quiet retreat" and no mention was made of it being a venue for up to 288 guests as is the case in this planning application. This is unsuitable being so near a small village. Strong feelings were expressed about the unsatisfactory outcome of a recent meeting to discuss the licensing application for the Valley Farm venue which was attended by many Huntingfield residents who felt their concerns were not listened to and the outcome ruling in favour of the application was a foregone conclusion.

It is vital for residents to be united in their opposition to this application and to believe that the process will work. The impact of extra traffic movements through the village, noise from the proposed venue and the effect on local amenities are important points to include when commenting.

There needs to be more publicity, press and social media involvement to make others aware of what is proposed. It is important for residents to comment individually on the application, and to commit to attending any future appeal hearing. The loss of any good faith between the Wilderness representative and HPC has gone and the lack of transparency with this retrospective planning application means residents have been misled.

Following the comments and points raised by residents the Chairman said HPC should now vote. Cllr Kline proposed that HPC should oppose this planning application, seconded by Cllr Watson and voted in favour unanimously. The Chairman asked all residents present to trust and support HPC. He also thanked DC Ewart, in her absence, for all her help and support with this application and for keeping HPC updated on any developments. A list of the names and email addresses of residents who are intending to object to the application and who would be willing to attend a future hearing will be compiled following the end of the meeting. A small number of councillors and residents will now work on the HPC response to be submitted to ESC Planning before the consultation deadline.

Meeting closed at 19.40 pm

Minutes signed as correct:

Chairman _____ **Date** _____

Carol Hume
Huntingfield Parish Clerk huntingfieldclerk@gmail.com